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West Devon
Borough
Council

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Dear Councillor

WEST DEVON COUNCIL - TUESDAY, 30TH NOVEMBER, 2021

I refer to the agenda for the above meeting and attach papers in connection with the following item(s).

Agenda No	Item
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| 10. | <u>Revised Political Composition of the Council</u> (Pages 1 - 6) |
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Yours sincerely

Darryl White
Democratic Services Manager

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Report to: **Council**
Date: **30 November 2021**
Title: **Revised Political Composition of the Council**
Portfolio Area: **Leader – Cllr Neil Jory**
Wards Affected: **All**
Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Date next steps can be taken: **Immediately following this meeting**

Author: **Darryl White** Role: **Democratic Services Manager**

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RECOMMENDATION

That, with immediate effect:

- 1. the revised political composition of the Council be noted as follows:**
 - **Conservative Group: 16 Members;**
 - **West Devon Alliance Group: 12 Members;**
 - **Non-aligned Independents: 2 Members; and**
 - **One vacancy.**
- 2. Cllr A Blackman be appointed to serve on:**
 - **the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;**
 - **the Development Management and Licensing Committee (as a Substitute Member and subject to being in receipt of the required Member Training);**
 - **the Tamar Estuary Consultative Forum; and**
 - **the Communications & Media and Housing Hub Advisory Groups;**
- 3. Cllr J Spettigue be appointed to fill the vacancy on the Development Management & Licensing Committee, with Cllr Bolton no longer serving on the Standards Committee; and**
- 4. It be noted that a further report on the Political Composition of the Council will be presented to the Council at its first meeting following the Tavistock North by-election.**

1. Executive summary

1.1 Since the last Council meeting was held on 28 September 2021, the Council has received formal notification of two resignations from the office of West Devon Borough Council:

- Mr Robin Musgrave (with effect from 30 September 2021); and
- Mr Steve Hipsey (with effect from 16 November 2021)

1.2 In addition, Cllr Angela Blackman was elected to represent the Bere Ferrers Ward on the Borough Council at a By-Election held on 18 November 2021.

1.3 As a result, there are implications on both the political balance and, as a consequence, the appointments to formal Bodies of the Council.

1.4 This report requests that the Council amends the membership of some of its formal and informal Bodies to reflect the revised political balance;

2. Background

2.1 The changes to the political composition of the Council are set out below and have had a consequential minor impact on the political balance table (as outlined at Appendix A) that requires addressing:

- Conservative Group: 16 Members;
- West Devon Alliance Group: 12 Members;
- Non-aligned Independents: 2 Members; and
- One vacancy.

2.2 The Group Leaders have been invited to submit their nominations in line with the amended political balance table and these are set out below:

- That Cllr A Blackman be appointed to serve on:
 - the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
 - the Development Management and Licensing Committee (as a Substitute Member and subject to being in receipt of the required Member Training);
 - the Tamar Estuary Consultative Forum; and
 - the Communications & Media and Housing Hub Advisory Groups; and
- That Cllr Spettigue be appointed to fill the vacancy on the Development Management & Licensing Committee, with Cllr Bolton no longer serving on the Standards Committee.

- 2.3 As a consequence of these nominations, there are remaining vacancies on: the Overview and Scrutiny Committee; the Standards Committee; and the Communications & Media and the People & Community Hub Advisory Groups.
- 2.4 It is intended that these vacancies will be addressed (alongside the revised political composition of the Council) at the first Council Meeting following the Tavistock North Ward By-Election.

3. Outcomes/outputs

- 3.1 The Council is asked to note its revised political composition and, with immediate effect, approve the consequent nominations to its formal Bodies and Hub Advisory Groups.

4. Options available and consideration of risk

- 4.1 Failure to apply the rules of political balance could render a formal Member Body of the Council to be unlawful. However, this risk is mitigated by the revised nominations list.

5. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance	Y	Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 set out the political balance rules for the allocation of formal Committee seats.
Financial implications to include reference to value for money	Y	There will be no financial implications linked to this report.
Risk	Y	The risk implications are set out at Section 4 above.
Supporting Corporate Strategy	Y	Council Theme – <i>Efficient and effective</i>
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity	N	N/A
Climate Change & Biodiversity	N	N/A
Safeguarding	N	N/A
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder	N	N/A

Health, Safety and Wellbeing	N	N/A
Other implications	N	None

Appendices:

A – Revised Political Balance table.

Background Documents:

Council Constitution.

Political Balance: 19 November 2021

Total number of seats subject to political balance:	51 seats
Conservative Group entitlement = 16/31 (51.6%)	26.32 (26 seats)
Alliance Group entitlement = 12/31 (38.7%)	19.74 (20 seats)
Non-aligned Independent Member entitlement = 2/31 (6.4%)	3.29 (3 seats)
One Vacancy = 1/31 (3.2%)	1.64 (2 seats)

	Total Entitlement	Hub Ctee	O&S Ctee	Audit	DM&L	Standards	DNP	Invest to Earn Comm	(Check)
(16) Cons	26	5	8	3	5	2	1	2	26
(12) Indy Group	20	4	5	3	5	1	1	1	20
(2) Indy N/A	3		1	1		1			3
(1) Vacancy	2		1			1			2
Total	51	9	15	7	10	5	2	3	51

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